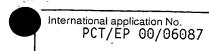


INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E 2055 PCT	(Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.				
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)			
PCT/EP 00/06087	29/06/2000				
Applicant		L.,			
FIDIA ADVANCED BIOPOLYMERS	S SRL				
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Auth Insmitted to the International Bureau.	ority and is transmitted to the applicant			
This International Search Report consists of X It is also accompanied by a	of a total of sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.			
Basis of the report	 				
	nternational search was carried out on the basi ess otherwise indicated under this item.	is of the international application in the			
the international search wa Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of th	e international application furnished to this			
was carried out on the basis of the	 b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in written form. 				
	national application in computer readable form				
	this Authority in written form.				
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in computer readble form.				
	the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.				
the statement that the infor furnished	mation recorded in computer readable form is	identical to the written sequence listing has been			
2. Certain claims were foun	d unsearchable (See Box I).	•			
3. Unity of invention is lack	ing (see Box II).				
4. With regard to the title,					
the text is approved as sub	mitted by the applicant.				
X the text has been establish	ed by this Authority to read as follows:				
	FIVES FOR THE PREVENTION AND	TREATMENT OF CUTANEOUS			
5. With regard to the abstract,					
X the text is approved as sub-	mitted by the applicant.				
the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.					
6. The figure of the drawings to be publis	hed with the abstract is Figure No.				
as suggested by the application	ant.	X None of the figures.			
because the applicant failed	d to suggest a figure.				
because this figure better c	haracterizes the invention.	~			





Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. X	Claims Nos.: 7-11 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically: see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inter	national Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
. •	
1 A	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. A	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. A	as only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report overs only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. N	lo required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is estricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 7-11

Present claims 1-14 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds/products, that is to any hyaluronic acid derivative including esters with alcohols, auto-cross-linked esters, cross-linked derivatives, a hemi-ester of succinic acid with hyaluronic acid, o-sulphated and O/N-sulphated derivatives.

Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small number of such compounds/products claimed, namely esters formed from alcohols. In fact, only one example is given which relates to the benzyl ester of hyaluronic acid.

In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds/products that are esters of alcohols and hyaluronic acid.

Claims 1 and 3 are unclear because the definition of a "biomaterial" is unclear. Moreover, the distinction between a pharmaceutical composition or a biomaterial is unclear. In the context of said claims, there would appear to be no difference and as such, the expression "or biomaterial" has been disregarded for the purposes of the search.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INT. RNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 A61K31/728 A61P43/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7-A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

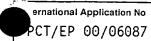
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data, EMBASE, BIOSIS

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Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	DAVIDSON, J.M. ET AL.: "Hyaluronate derivatives and their application to wound healing: preliminary observations" CLINICAL MATERIALS, vol. 8, no. 1-2, 1991, pages 171-177, XP000984474 abstract introduction discussion	1-6, 12-14
		1-6, 12-14
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.		
° Special categories of cited documents :			
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention		
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention		
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or	cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone		
which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled		
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means			
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report		
5 March 2001	2 % r		
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer		
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk			
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Taylor, G.M.		
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INT NATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages RUIZ-CARDONA L ET AL: "Application of	Relevant to claim No.
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benzyl hyaluronate membranes as potential wound dressings: evaluation of water vapour and gas permeabilities" BIOMATERIALS,GB,ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS BV., BARKING, vol. 17, no. 16, 1 August 1996 (1996-08-01), pages 1639-1643, XP004032972 ISSN: 0142-9612 abstract tables 1,2 conclusions	1-6, 12-14
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